

the Vikings to 12 CCIW track and field titles and 7 CCIW cross country titles during his tenure. Throughout his years at Augustana College, Fred has worked in various capacities including director of off-campus housing, director of custodial services, director of intramurals and associate athletic director.

Fred has enriched the lives of all those around him, students, faculty and other community members, and is a true leader. Fred has had a wonderful 33 year career at Augustana College, and I know he will be greatly missed as he enters retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Fred for his commitment to the Augustana Community, and I congratulate him again on his well-earned retirement and wish him luck with his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JAMES JENDRUSINA
ON THE OCCASION OF EARNING
THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Jendrusina, of Bessemer, Michigan and his achievement in earning the Congressional Award. The Congressional Award recognizes four avenues of individual growth—community service, physical fitness, exploration, and personal development—and how the fulfillment of these goals forms balanced and promising young citizens. In their pursuit of these goals, recipients of the Congressional Awards have gained new skills and greater confidence.

In earning his Congressional Award, James volunteered over 200 hours of service through the Boy Scouts, where he focused on teaching younger scouts about service opportunities and how they are able to enrich the communities in which they live. He was also able to introduce bats to the Little Girls Campground to try to control the mosquito population.

For his personal development, James dedicated his time to learn about agriculture by planting and taking care of his own garden. Through this experience he learned how to control pests, preserve vegetables and eventually harvest the fruits of his labor.

For his Physical Education, James chose to focus on healthy eating and working out. By running and adding a weight routine to his exercises, he was able to achieve an understanding of what is needed to ensure a healthy lifestyle.

For his Expedition, James traveled to Alaska and visited the Kenai Peninsula to learn how to fish using varying techniques.

I believe the projects undertaken by James will be the cornerstone for future achievements and a commitment to bettering one's self and their community. Please join me in congratulating James for his accomplishments and for success in the future.

200,000 MILES DRIVEN AND NO
PLAN TO RETIRE

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, last week I was deeply honored to welcome James Price and his wife Ellen into our D.C. office. They were in town representing the Disabled American Veterans and shared with me about how they serve our Kansas Veterans. For over twenty years Jim and Ellen have generously coordinated transportation services for our Veterans to the closest Veteran Affairs Medical Center in either Topeka or Wichita.

Four days a week for over two decades, this couple has helped transport our rural Veterans in the greater Salina area who cannot get the necessary health care services at the local Community Based Outpatient Clinic. I want to commend their dedication and selfless sacrifice; they have made a very tangible difference in the lives of so many Kansas Veterans.

Up until just a few years ago, Ellen coordinated with the Salina VA clinic and set up weekly transportation schedules for all the medical appointments for local veterans traveling to Wichita and Topeka. And Jim did much of the driving. In fact, during my conversation with Mr. Price, he reported that since he started driving vans for the VA over twenty years ago, he has logged over 200,000 miles as a volunteer. And at over eighty years old, he has no plans to retire.

Jim and Ellen Price are shining examples of the many men and women who served us in the military and go beyond the call of duty to serve long after they leave the military. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Price, for your selfless dedication and commitment—and to the thousands of others across the First District of Kansas—who do so much to serve our Veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF DE
PERE, WISCONSIN ON ITS 125TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of De Pere, Wisconsin as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

Father Claude-Jean Allouez, a Jesuit missionary and explorer, is credited with founding this community when he established the St. Francis Xavier mission in 1671. The name was derived from rapids on the Fox River with settlers referring to this area as Rapides Des Peres.

The historic Fox River has always been part of the fabric of this community; dividing it between east and west for many years. In 1890, the communities of West De Pere and De Pere merged, and as a result the unified City of De Pere continues to thrive and grow. Today, the city boasts around 24,000 residents, and has several buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places such as the De Pere Lock and Dam Historic District, the North Broadway Street Historic District,

Main Hall on the St. Norbert College campus, and several other wonderful places.

St. Norbert College is a major institution of higher learning inside the city that is home to more than 2,000 students pursuing a wide variety of degrees, and to this day vigorously pursues their motto "To teach by word and example." It is my great honor to recognize the City of De Pere, the city leaders past and present, and the residents who have contributed so greatly toward the community as it stands today. I extend my congratulations and all the best in the next 125 years!

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH MOUNTAIN
DIVISION ON THEIR 30TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. STEFANK. Mr. Speaker, let us honor and recognize the 10th Mountain Division on their 30th anniversary for their service to Fort Drum, the 21st District of New York, our North Country community and our nation. For the past thirty years, the brave men and women of the 10th Mountain Division have stood in harm's way to protect and defend our country. Since September 11th, 2001, the 10th Mountain Division has been the most actively deployed division to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Too many of our nation's service members have made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives while in service. We cannot repay the debt we owe these service men and women and their families, but we can work to honor their legacy and recognize what they have done for us. We must protect the promises that we have made to these brave individuals and strengthen our nation's commitment to helping them as they return home from combat. As leaders in Congress we have an obligation to serve our constituents and members of our armed forces.

I am honored to serve on the House Armed Services Committee and as the Vice-Chair for the Subcommittee on Readiness and as a member of the Subcommittees on Personnel and Emerging Threats and Capabilities. As a member of these subcommittees I will fight to ensure the Defense Department, our troops and Fort Drum have the necessary tools and resources they require to defend our nation from those that wish to do us harm.

On this 30th anniversary, let us honor and reflect all that the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum has done for our community and our nation, and let us pledge to work together to preserve and strengthen this institution for many years to come. Thank you to the soldiers and your loved ones for keeping our nation safe.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
LARRY SCANLON

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Larry Scanlon, who was

taken from us tragically on February 27th, 2015, after over 40 years of dedicated service to our nation's hardworking families.

Mr. Scanlon served as the longtime Political Director for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). In this role, he fought to raise the minimum wage, protect Social Security, and add a voice for middle class families in our government and national discussion.

Larry recognized that our country's success is tied to the economic health of the middle class. In this vein, he sought to make this country greater by fighting to give families the fair shot that they deserve at the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Larry's contributions as a fighter for the middle class, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

HONORING THE JERICO PROJECT FOR ITS RECEIPT OF THE 2015 INNOVATION IN JUSTICE AWARD

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jericho Project for its receipt of the 2015 Innovations in Justice Award for approaching criminal justice challenges in a new and effective way. The Innovations in Justice Award recipients were selected by the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Center for Court Innovation.

The Jericho Project was launched more than a decade ago by the Shelby County Public Defender's Office to better serve people living with serious mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders who have been cycling through the criminal justice system. The main architect, Shelby County Chief Public Defender Stephen Bush, my constituent, developed the initiative while working as an Assistant Public Defender, a position he held for almost 20 years before being appointed as Shelby County's 10th Public Defender in 2010.

Mr. Bush has overseen the development of community linkage plans that are presented to courts in support of community-based, alternative forms of sentencing. Recovery Support Specialists on the team support clients for four months after they are released from prison and help them transition to life back in the community. I am proud to say that nearly 60 percent of those participating in the Jericho Project have successfully completed their recovery plans and have avoided further cycling through the criminal justice system.

What began as a grant-funded experiment has matured into a permanent part of Shelby County's efforts to address the needs of some of its most vulnerable citizens. The Jericho Project's success has made it a national model for how criminal justice systems can better serve those struggling to survive with serious mental illnesses.

The Jericho Project has been changing lives for more than a decade, and this recognition is well deserved. I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Jericho Project for receiving the 2015 Innovations in Justice Award.

AUTHORIZING SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RECOUP BONUSES AND AWARDS

SPEECH OF

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 280, legislation authorizing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recoup bonuses and awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I would like to commend Chairman MILLER for his continued leadership on this issue. I also want to express my gratitude to the House Veterans Affairs Committee for their hard work on this bill, and for its work last year on the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

Last year, reports by the VA Office of Inspector General revealed widespread mismanagement, inadequate standards of care, and unnecessary delays for appointments in VA facilities across the country, including facilities in both Atlanta and Augusta, Georgia where veterans in my home district seek care. The appalling lack of responsible oversight at certain facilities led to the placement of veterans on secret waiting lists created to manipulate data in order to cover up long wait times. This was an inexcusable practice that prevented our nation's heroes from receiving the timely care that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, those responsible for overseeing those VA facilities were clearly failing at their jobs. Yet, in Fiscal Year 2013, VA issued over \$380,000 in bonuses to employees at hospitals under investigation by the VA Inspector General for falsifying records. This is unacceptable. Under no circumstances should VA employees receive a 'performance award' for purposefully fostering an environment of negligence. H.R. 280 provides the authority to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to order VA employees to pay back their bonuses so that no employee will remain rewarded for their misconduct.

We owe our veterans a great debt of gratitude, and one small way of repaying that debt is to ensure that our veterans receive the best possible care. This commonsense legislation will bring much-needed accountability to the VA system and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 280.

COMMENDING LOCAL BROADCASTERS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, every day, our nation's broadcasters serve communities across the country by providing the news and entertainment we rely on to get through our day. Whether it is an update on what is happening in the world, educational programming, or a review of the movies opening that weekend, most Americans turn to broadcasters for news on issues big and small.

This is especially true for local broadcasters. These broadcasters provide the public with the

news that is most important, and most useful for them, because it is the news from their own communities. This is true in Sacramento and across the nation. Our broadcasters play an integral role in Sacramentans day-to-day lives, informing all of us about everything from local traffic to an in-depth look at local political issues.

Local broadcasters play a particularly important role in times of an emergency. In Sacramento, we continue to experience drought-like weather conditions, as well as heavy rains that bring with them the threat of flooding. Unfortunately, the entire state of California is susceptible to a number of natural disasters, including earthquakes, wildfires, and—of course—flooding. It is essential that residents have access to local emergency broadcasts, so that they have the public safety information they need when a disaster strikes.

And the role of broadcasters goes beyond disseminating information to the public. They have also played an important part in growing and investing in our nation's airwaves. The spectrum sharing agreement that the broadcasters entered into with the Department of Defense helped solidify the Federal Communications Commission's recent record breaking spectrum auction of the AWS-3 band. This spectrum auction generated nearly \$45 billion in revenue, enough to fully fund FirstNet, the nationwide interoperability network for America's first responders and public safety officials.

Broadcasters play an important role in our country. I want to applaud the work of broadcasters, particularly those in Sacramento, for working diligently to cover and provide local news programming to our communities, and for being strong community partners.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize International Women's Day. This day is celebrated across the world in different ways to honor the role of women throughout history. Here in the United States, we celebrate this day during Women's History Month. Since 1913, March 8 has been marked as a day to honor the economic, political, and social achievements of women.

International Women's Day serves as a reminder of the steps we have made towards equality in the United States and internationally, and honors the women who worked to make these steps possible. As a Member of Congress from the only state in the country to have had an all-female delegation, I am proud of how far our country has come towards equality for women. But we cannot recognize these accomplishments without also mentioning the work that still needs to be done.

While we have come so far, women still face political and economic obstacles. Women are still not equally represented in small business ownership or in the technology sector. I have been working to build support and encouragement for more women small business leaders and women in technology. A few weeks ago, I had the privilege to congratulate